

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 271120Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8043

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 0904

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, SU

SUBJ: KHARTOUM TERRORISTS; STATUS BSO TRIAL

REF: KHARTOUM 0892

1. AT END MY CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI APRIL 27, I SAID DEPT WOULD OF COURSE BE ASKING ME REGARDING NEXT STEPS IN TRIAL BSO TERRORISTS. NIMEIRI, WHO ONLY RECENTLY RETURNED FROM SEVERAL WEEKS ABROAD, ASKED ACTING FONMIN MUSA FOR REPORT ON STATUS. MUSA SAID HE HAD RECENTLY INQUIRED RE STATUS CASE, UNDERSTOOD JUDGES WERE NOW READING THE FILE (REFTEL) AND HE HOPED ANNOUNCEMENT RE TRIAL DATE COULD BE MADE WITHIN WEEK OR TEN DAYS.

2. NIMEIRI THEN REITERATED THAT TRIAL WOULD TAKE PLACE AND SOUGHT EXCUSE DELAY BY COMMENTING SOMEWHAT LAMELY THAT SIRHAN SIRHAN NOT YET BROUGHT TO TRIAL IN US. I SAID THAT, ON CONTRARY, SIRHAN HAD BEEN FOUND GUILTY AND WAS NOW SERVING LIFE SENTENCE. NIMEIRI REMARKED THAT PALESTINIANS HAD BEEN MORE UNDERSTANDING RE BSO CASE THAN LIBYANS WHO HE CLAIMED WERE PRODUCING DAIUH# PAMPHLETS CRITICIZING SUDAN AS ONLY ARAB COUNTRY STILL JAILING PALESTINIANS. HE EMPHASIZED GOS DESIRE GET CASE OVER WITH AND SAID THAT ALL HE COULD DO WAS INQUIRE FROM PRESIDENT SUPREME COURT RASHID AS TO HOW CASE WAS PROCEEDING. NIMEIRI COMMENTED IN PASSING THAT PALESTINIANS HAD IN PAST TELEPHONED SUDANESE EMBASSIES, BEIRUT, PARIS AND LONDON, THREATENING TO OCCUPY PREMISIS (PRESUMABLY IF TERRORISTS NOT RELEASED). SUDANESE

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AMBASSADORS HAD RESPONDED THAT PALESTINIANS WERE WELCOME

AT ANY TIME. NOTHING SUBSEQUENTLY OCCURRED.

3. I STRESSED TO NIMEIRI THAT WE CONTINUED HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN SUDANESE JUSTICE BUT THAT CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES AND/OR ITEMS IN AMERICAN PRESS COULD CONTINUE BE EXPECTED IN ABSENCE PUBLIC INDICATION CONTINUED PROGRESS ON CASE. WE UNDERSTOOD JUDICIAL PROCESSES MIGHT BE TIME-CONSUMING BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT BENCH-MARKS INDICATING PROGRESS BE REGULARLY VISIBLE. NIMEIRI INDICATED THAT HE EXPECTED TRIAL TAKE PLACE IN NORMAL COURSE.

4. COMMENT. PRIOR SEEING PRESIDENT, I LEARNED RASHID MEETING APRIL 27 WITH PRESIDING JUDGE ABDULLA ABU AGLA AND OTHERS WITH A VIEW FIXING TRIAL DATE. ACCORDING SOURCE CLOSE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, DATE WILL BE FIXED BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS APRIL 27. SINCE THIS INFO SUBSTANTIALLY IN ACCORD WITH OUR EARLIER UNDERSTANDING, INCLUDING COMMENTS TO ME BY ATTORNEY GENERAL (REFTEL) I DID NOT FEEL IT NECESSARY PRESS NIMEIRI BE MORE SPECIFIC. IN ANY CASE, HE GAVE IMPRESSION OF NOT BEING FULLY FAMILIAR PRECISE STATUS CASE AND SEEMED SOMEWHAT SURPRISED TO LEARN TRIAL ITSELF NOT YET UNDER WAY. I ACCORDINGLY BELIEVE APPROACH WAS USEFUL IN ORDER UNDERLINE TO PRESIDENT PERSONALLY OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN ORDERLY PROGRESS THIS MATTER, EVEN THOUGH NEED FOR HIS PERSONAL INTERVENTION THIS JUNCTURE APPARANTLY NOT REQUIRED.  
BREWER

NOTE BY OCT: #AS RECEIVED.

SECRET

NNN

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